

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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TAGS:PFOR, TU, CY

SUBJECT:NOON BRIEFING: TURKISH AID-CYPRUS

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT Q'S AND A'S AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING
FEBRUARY 4 WITH DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ANDERSON:

QUOTE: Q: THERE ARE REPORTS FROM OVERSEAS THAT THE TURKS
EXPECT TO MEET KISSINGER IN BRUSSELS ON THE 9TH. DO YOU
HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT?

A: ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT WE HAVE HAD EXCHANGES -- HAD
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DISCUSSIONS -- WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS AND FOREIGN

MINISTER ESENBEL ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT THE AID CUTOFF TOMORROW PUTS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT DIMENSION TO THE QUESTION.

I CAN'T TAKE YOU ANY FURTHER AT THE MOMENT.

Q: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, "PUTS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT DIMENSION?"

A: WELL AS I HAVE SAID WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT THIS BEFORE, THERE MAY, OR THERE MAY NOT BE, MEETINGS WITH THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS. I JUST MENTIONED THAT IF A CONVENIENT TIME, ETC., COULD BE WORKED OUT, THAT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN. NOW I AM TELLING YOU THAT WE HAVE HAD DISCUSSIONS ON THIS

WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS, BUT I CANNOT TAKE YOU ANY FURTHER AT THIS TIME.

Q: BUT THE FEBRUARY 5TH DEADLINE WAS SET BY THE CONGRESS TWO MONTHS AGO, AND WHY DO YOU SPEAK AS THOUGH THIS SUD- DENLY BROKE LIKE A THUNDERBOLT FROM HEAVEN? THAT'S PLENTY OF TIME TO WORK THIS OUT.

A: I HONESTLY, ON THIS, IF AND WHEN I GET SOMETHING IN REPLY, SOMETHING DEFINITE IN REPLY, TO KEN'S SPECIFIC QUESTION, I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU.

THERE IS NOTHING DEFINITE ON IT AT THIS TIME.

Q: IN OTHER WORDS, THE TURK IS WRONG.

A: I HAVE SEEN, FRANKLY, -- ON BACKGROUND HERE -- VARYING REPORTS FROM ANKARA ON THE POSSIBILITY FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY.

Q: TO FOLLOW ON THIS QUESTION, YOU SAID THAT THE AID CUTOFF, "PUTS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT DIMENSION" TO THIS QUESTION. BUT THAT DIMENSION HAS BEEN THERE, AND IT HAS BEEN OBVIOUS FOR SEVERAL DAYS THAT IT WAS GOING TO TAKE PLACE. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT PHRASEOLOGY, AND UNCLASSIFIED

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I WISH THAT YOU COULD DRAW THAT OUT A LITTLE BIT.

A: WELL I SUPPOSE, IN OTHER WORDS -- AND I WOULD LIKE THIS ON BACKGROUND -- THE QUESTION OF A MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, BECAUSE OF THE AID CUTOFF, NOW THAT IT IS GOING TO BE DONE TOMORROW -- THAT THE MEETINGS MAY OR MAY NOT TAKE PLACE AND AS SOON AS WE HAVE SOMETHING DEFINITE I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU. AND I WOULD

LIKE ALL OF THAT LAST ON BACKGROUND.

Q: ON THE AID CUTOFF, WHAT AID IS CUT OFF? DOES DELIVERY TAKE PLACE OF THINGS ON THE SEA? DO SHIPMENTS CONTINUE FROM OUT OF PORT? WHERE DO THEY STOP?

A: LET ME JUST TELL YOU EXACTLY WHERE THINGS WILL STAND HERE:

FIRST OF ALL, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL COMPLY FULLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW.

ACCORDINGLY, APPROPRIATE AGENCIES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ARE BEING INSTRUCTED THAT ON FEBRUARY 5, ALL SALES OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES, ALL CREDITS AND GUARANTEES

TO FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES, AND ALL LICENSES WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF ARMS, AMMUNITION AND IMPLEMENTS OF WAR INCLUDING TECHNICAL DATA RELATED THERETO, TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY WILL BE SUSPENDED.

THIS SUSPENSION AFFECTS BOTH NEW ASSISTANCE AND ITEMS ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE. MILITARY MATERIAL ENROUTE TO TURKEY BUT NOT DELIVERED BY FEBRUARY 5, WILL BE RETAINED UNDER U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

SUSPENSION OF ASSISTANCE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL EITHER NEW STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION OR CERTIFICATION BY THE PRESIDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH U.S. LEGISLATION AND THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARD AGREEMENT ON CYPRUS.

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Q: PHYSICALLY, DOES THAT MEAN THAT ANYTHING ON A SHIP NOW, STAYS ON THE SHIP, OR THAT IT GOES ON PORT BUT IN AMERICAN CUSTODY?

A: FIRST OF ALL, AS I SAID -- I THINK TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO -- NOTHING WOULD BE DELIVERED TO TURKEY AFTER THE CUTOFF DATE OF FEBRUARY 5.

ANYTHING THAT IS ON THE HIGH SEAS -- I DO NOT HAVE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON WHAT MAY BE ON THE HIGH SEAS -- WILL NOT BE DELIVERED TO TURKEY. IT WILL REMAIN IN U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

ON BACKGROUND, OBVIOUSLY, THE SHIP ISN'T GOING TO JUST STAY AT SEA WANDERING AROUND WITH MATERIAL. I ASSUME

THAT IT WOULD GO INTO SOME U.S. DEPOT. BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU WHERE, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHIPS, IF ANY, ARE ON THE HIGH SEAS AT THIS TIME. BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT NOTHING WILL BE DELIVERED TO TURKEY.

Q: YOU SEEM TO BE GOING BACK TO OZZIE'S POINT -- YOU SEEM TO BE LEAVING US WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT KISSINGER'S MEETING WITH ESENBEL AND BITSIOS IS IN DOUBT.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE CUTOFF HAS DESTROYED IN KISSINGER'S MIND ANY CHANCE OF ACHIEVING PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, IN AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THIS? WHY WOULD THE CUTOFF PUT IN DOUBT THE MEETING? WHY WOULDN'T

HE GO AHEAD AND TRY TO ACHIEVE SOME PROGRESS ANYWAY?

A: WELL I THINK THE SECRETARY OBVIOUSLY HOPES TO CONTINUE MAKING WHATEVER PROGRESS HE CAN MAKE TOWARDS SEEKING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. BUT AGAIN, ON THE QUESTION OF A POSSIBLE MEETING WITH THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS, I REALLY AS OF THIS MOMENT, CAN'T TAKE YOU ANY FURTHER THAN I HAVE -- AND I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE YOU FURTHER LATER ON.

Q: I GATHER FROM THE WIRES THAT AMBASSADOR MACOMBER MET WITH TURKISH OFFICIALS THIS MORNING. HAVE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TURKS GIVEN US ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL ASK FOR THE REMOVAL OF ANY AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL OR THE CLOSING OF ANY AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY AS A RESULT OF THE AID CUTOFF?

A: I AM UNAWARE OF ANY SUCH VIEW BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO CHECK INTO IT.

Q: ARE BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT A MEETING, OR IS ONLY ONE OF THOSE TWO CALLING THIS MEETING INTO QUESTION?

A: I WOULD PREFER TO JUST LET IT STAND ON WHAT I HAVE SAID ALREADY. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE COMMUNICATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS. I WOULD RATHER JUST LEAVE IT.

Q: THERE'S ANOTHER THING I'M NOT AT ALL CLEAR ON.

DOES THE SECRETARY, IF HE DOES ARRANGE THIS MEETING, PLAN TO MEET WITH BOTH OF THEM SIMULTANEOUSLY OR -- AND

THIS MAY BE A DUMB QUESTION, BUT -- EACH INDIVIDUALLY,
OR BOTH TOGETHER, OR WHAT?

A: ON THAT, ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT IN THE PAST, THE
MEETINGS IN NEW YORK LAST FALL AND IN BRUSSELS IN
DECEMBER, THE SECRETARY MET SEPARATELY WITH THE FOREIGN
MINISTERS ON EACH OCCASION.

Q: IS THERE ANYTHING IN THE WORKS WHICH MIGHT CHANGE
THE PICTURE BEFORE MIDNIGHT (FEBRUARY 5) HERE, OR AT THE
WHITE HOUSE? OR WOULD YOU HOPE FOR ANY SORT OF DEVELOP-
MENT WHICH COULD CHANGE IT?

A: I WOULD SAY NO, ON THIS, IN LIGHT OF WHAT THE SEC-
RETARY HAD TO SAY LAST SATURDAY AFTER HIS MEETING WITH
THOSE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO ARE PARTICULARLY INTERSTED
IN THE CYPRUS PROBLEM.

Q: WOULD YOU MAKE AN EFFORT TO GET US A REPLY TO THE
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ORIGINAL QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER HE'S MEETING THE TURKS
SEPARATELY, OR NOT?

BECAUSE YOU SEE, WHAT WE ARE LEFT WITH HERE, ON THE
RECORD, IS AN UNANSWERED QUESTION -- AND THEN SOME EX-
PLANATION WHICH INDICATES THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT
HAS JUST DISCOVERED THE EXISTENCE OF THE CONGRESS --
AND WE -- IT'S SORT OF MESSY TO HANDLE THAT WAY.

A: AS SOON AS I CAN GET YOU DEFINITE INFORMATION, ON
THE POSSIBILITY OF THE MEETINGS THAT HAVE BEEN REFERRED
TO HERE, I WILL DO IT.

Q: ON MORE QUESTION IN CONNECTION WITH THIS: ARE YOU,
OR IS THE SECRETARY, HOPING FOR OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN
ALLIES TO STEP IN THE GAP, TO CLOSE THE DELIVERY GAPS
IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND MONTHS, SHOULD YOU NOT BE
ABLE TO REVOKE THIS SUSPENSION?

A: I DO NOT KNOW. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON THAT.

Q: IS THERE A POSSIBILITY THAT IF THERE ARE ARMS ON
THE HIGH SEAS, THEY WILL BE DELIVERED TO OTHER
COUNTRIES IN THE AREA WITH WHOM WE HAVE A MILITARY
RELATIONSHIP?

A: THAT'S A HYPOTHETICAL POSSIBILITY -- YES. OR AS I
SAID BEFORE, IT MAY GO INTO U.S. DEPOTS IN EUROPE. BUT
THIS IS ALL EXTREMELY HYPOTHETICAL, BECAUSE I DO NOT

KNOW WHAT SHIPS, IF ANY, MAY BE ON THE HIGH SEAS THAT
MAY HAVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR TURKEY. UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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